

An active member of the Blount County community, Commissioner Williams was a Sunday school teacher and chairman of the Board of Deacons at St. John Baptist Church of Alcoa. He was Past Master of Granite Masonic Lodge No. 289, Past Commander in Chief of Alcoa Consistory No. 175, Past Potentate of Almas Shrine Temple No. 71, and was named Mason of the Year.

In 2002 he received the Governor's Tennessee Volunteer Commendation Award and was listed in Who's Who Among Black Americans. Williams was also a member of the Alcoa Rotary and American Legion Post 18.

When he was elected to Blount County's governing body in 1984, he became the second African-American elected official in Blount County in the twentieth century and the third in the county's history.

Above all, he cherished his family. Commissioner Williams was married to Evelyn Robinson Williams for over forty years. He loved being a husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

This Nation is a better place because of Commissioner Williams, and I want, in this small way, to express my great appreciation for his service and my heartfelt condolences to his family.

HONORING STANLEY EUGENE
TOLLIVER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Stanley Eugene Tolliver—respected attorney, civic activist, community advocate, dedicated family man, and friend and mentor to countless—as he is sworn-in as President of the Norman S. Minor Bar Association.

Mr. Tolliver was born and raised in Cleveland, and has reflected a life-long commitment to education for himself and for others. After attending the Cleveland Public Schools, Mr. Tolliver received his undergraduate degree at Baldwin Wallace College with a major in pre-law. He was awarded his law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1951. Mr. Tolliver passed the bar exam in 1953 while serving in the United States Army. In 1969, he received a Juris Doctor degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

He embarked upon his journey of public service in the seventies, when he was appointed by Judge Frank Batisti to the Committee of the Office of School Monitoring and Community Relations. Mr. Tolliver was elected to the Cleveland School Board in 1981; re-elected in 1985, 1989, and elected as President of the School Board in 1987. In 1990, Mr. Tolliver was reelected as President of the School Board. Besides his dedication to the education of our youth, Mr. Tolliver has been equally committed to social justice issues. He is an active member of the Black Elected Democrats of Cleveland; a life-long member of the NAACP; an Executive Committee Member of the Cleveland NAACP; and an active member of the Cleveland Citizens Committee Against Dual Law Enforcement. Additionally, Mr. Tolliver has served as legal counsel to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Southern Christian

Leadership Conference and the Congress of Racial Equality. Mr. Tolliver acted as the legal advisor for the Shield Club, and initiated the indictment of ten Cleveland police officers for violent crimes.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Stanley Eugene Tolliver, and his continued commitment to our community. His work, expertise and dedication have served to uplift, improve and unify our entire citizenry. Mr. Tolliver's strong leadership abilities, vision, and passion for social justice for all has earned him the deep admiration and respect of the Cleveland community, as well as the entire Greater Cleveland community.

INTRODUCING THE SALES TAX EQUITABILITY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sales Tax Equitability Act, important legislation which would eliminate the discrimination faced by individuals who live in States that have no income tax.

Under current law, individuals can deduct their State income tax from their Federal income tax. Unfortunately, in many States like Texas, which has no State income tax, residents are not eligible for this deduction. Even though they pay State sales taxes that are equitable to income taxes in other States, these individuals are penalized because they don't pay a State income tax. This situation is patently unfair.

The legislation I am introducing today would allow residents of States with no income tax to deduct their sales tax from their Federal income tax. This legislation would provide fairness for all Americans by ensuring that, in States where there is no income tax, State and local sales taxes are treated the same as income taxes.

I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF RABBI SIDNEY KLEIMAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Rabbi Sidney Kleiman on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Both a scholar and a vigorous leader, Rabbi Kleiman inspires his community and congregation with his pious dedication and moving sermons.

With the longest active tenure of service in the same synagogue of any living rabbi, Rabbi Kleiman, has been serving New York City's historic Congregation Talmud Torah Adereth El for over 60 years. First as Rabbi from 1939–1999, he now serves as Rabbi Emeritus since 2000.

Rabbi Kleiman tells the story of how he became rabbi of Adareth El. "In 1939, I was Rabbi of the Jewish Center of Violet Park [in Bronx]. A Mr. Finkel, of blessed memory, was a member of my shul and also a member of

the 29th Street shul. He noticed that I left every morning to go down to Henry Street on the lower east side, to take my children to school in the yeshiva, and that I would go back every afternoon to pick them up. Mr. Finkel said to me, "Rabbi, you can't keep this up! You will not last, it is too much for you. There is an excellent opportunity, the 29th Street shul is looking for a Rabbi. The position would be perfect for you." Rabbi Kleiman was happy in his current position, but Mr. Finkel persisted. Rabbi Kleiman agreed to preach a sermon one Shabbos, with the understanding that he was not applying for the position of Rabbi.

He recounts, "The Saturday I preached was the week that Britain's Prime Minister Chamberlain had held his now infamous meeting with Hitler in Munich. When Chamberlain returned to 10 Downing Street, it was a rainy day. He opened up his umbrella and declared to the world: Peace in our time! The title of the sermon I preached that Shabbos was Peace Not in Our Times." Rabbi Kleiman explains that Chamberlain should have known from his meeting that Hitler was out to destroy the Jewish people and their rich culture. In the pacifist and isolationist climate of the United States during that time, the Rabbi stressed that the prestige of the Jewish people and their leaders had to be raised. In his words, "The congregation said that if this Rabbi is crazy enough to deliver this kind of sermon when America is so isolationist and pacifistic, let's elect him for six months and then fire him. And so it was. Every six months I was fired and re-hired. And that's how I lasted 60 years!"

And after fifty years as Rabbi, the Board of Trustees at Adereth El asked him if he would consider retiring. He said, "No Way!" He told them that his mother lived to 104 and was alert to the last day and he expects to outlive her. Currently, after 60 years of outstanding service and leadership, Rabbi Kleiman has been given the new honor and title of Rabbi Emeritus, which he expects to be for at least another fifty years.

Congregation Talmud Torah Adereth El, founded in 1857, has the distinction of being the only Jewish congregation in New York City to have worshipped for more than 140 years on the same site. Since 1863, Adereth El has been located on East 29th Street. The original design and integrity of the synagogue's simple and dignified interior has been substantially unaltered. Today, the congregation continues to provide a spiritual home to over 150 New York City families. The contributions of Congregation Talmud Torah Adereth El have touched many lives by providing spiritual guidance as well as fostering an enduring spirit of community. This spirit of giving is epitomized by the dedication and selflessness exhibited by Rabbi Kleiman.

For his unwavering dedication to his community and congregation, Rabbi Kleiman will forever remain a prominent and lasting community and spiritual leader.

In recognition of Rabbi Kleiman's lifetime of service and leadership of Congregation Talmud Torah Adereth El, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting Rabbi Kleiman and the congregation on his 90th birthday celebration.